

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 3813

PASS TO NSF FOR DR. ATKINSON AND NAS FOR DR. HANDLER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TGEN OSCI PL US
SUBJ: COPERNICUS ASTRONOMICAL CENTER (CAC)

REF: STATE 111933

1. SCICOUNS CALLED MAY 4 ON VICE MINISTER WALERY KUJAWSKI (MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY), WHO SUPERVISES THE MINISTRY'S INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES, TO SEEK CONFIRMATION ON THE TWO POINTS NOTED IN PARA 8 OF REF. AT THE OUTSET, KUJAWSKI SAID HE HAD BEEN BRIEFED BY MINISTER KALISKI ABOUT THE CAC SITUATION: AND THAT AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI HAD REPORTED ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH DR. GANLEY. KUJAWSKI ASCRIBED THE QUESTIONS THAT HAD ARISEN ABOUT POLISH INTENTIONS FOR THE USE OF THE CAC TO AN UNFORTUNATE MISUNDERSTANDING. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT ANY REMAINING U.S. CONCERNS WOULD BE DISPELLED IN THE COURSE OF A VISIT HERE BY DR. ATKINSON. HE REPEATED KALISKI'S PREVIOUS ASSURANCE TO AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE OF POLISH WILLINGNESS TO ACCOMMODATE U.S. VIEWS.

2. KUJAWSKI SAID THE PRESENT PLAN IS FOR THE CAC TO BE STAFFED BY 43 ASTRONOMERS, 17 "PURE" SCIENTISTS IN THE FIELD OF COSMIC PHYSICS AND GEOPHYSICS, AND 16 TECHNICAL STAFF. THERE IS ENOUGH ROOM AT THE CENTER FOR A NUMBER MORE. THE POLES WOULD LIKE TO
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ASSIGN SPACE TO MORE SCIENTISTS IN FIELDS CLOSELY RELATED TO ASTRONOMY, WHOSE WORK THEY BELIEVE WOULD SUPPORT ASTRONOMICAL RESEARCH. HE STRESSED THESE WOULD ALL BE "PURE" SCIENTISTS. IN THE POLISH VIEW, THIS WOULD BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPIRIT AND LETTER OF THE AGREEMENT WITH NSF. KUJAWSKI NOTED THAT THE PAN PROPOSAL FOR NSF SUPPORT DESCRIBES THE PROJECTED CAC AS A FACILITY FOR THEORETICAL RESEARCH "IN THE FIELD OF ASTRONOMY AND

RELATED BRANCHES OF PHYSICS," AND STATES IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED THE FIRST STAGE OF A LARGER SCIENTIFIC FACILITY FOR RESEARCH IN PHYSICAL SCIENCES, EXTENDING TO PLASMA PHYSICS, OPTICS, LABORATORY ASTROPHYSICS, GEO-PHYSICS, COSMIC PHYSICS AND RADIOASTRONOMY.

3. KUJAWSKI SAID THE POLES BELIEVE THE U.S. DELEGATION WILL FULLY SHARE THIS VIEW WHEN THE PLANS ARE EXPLAINED IN DETAIL DURING THEIR VISIT TO WARSAW. HOWEVER, IF THERE ARE STILL ANY DIFFERENCES OF VIEW, THE POLISH SIDE IS FLEXIBLE AND READY TO MAKE CHANGES TO ENSURE MUTUAL SATISFACTION. KUJAWSKI SAID THAT IF ANY SCIENTISTS IN FIELDS UNRELATED TO ASTRONOMY WERE MOVED INTO THE CAC THEY WOULD BE MOVED OUT IF ADDITIONAL SPACE WERE NEEDED FOR SCIENTISTS IN FIELDS RELATED TO ASTRONOMY.

4. COMMENT: THE PROBLEM SEEMS TO COME DOWN TO A QUESTION OF DEFINITION OF SPACE RESEARCH IN RELATIONSHIP TO ASTRONOMY. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE DOUBT AN ABSOLUTE BAN ON PURE SCIENTISTS IN FIELDS CLOSELY RELATED TO ASTRONOMY WOULD BE REASONABLE, AT LEAST WITHOUT ALLOWING THE POLES AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN THEIR PLANS IN DETAIL. ON THE BASIS OF THE ASSURANCES PROVIDED, WE BELIEVE DR. ATKINSON (AND ANY NAS REPRESENTATIVES) SHOULD VISIT POLAND AS PREVIOUSLY PLANNED ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE U.S. SIDE IS PREPARED TO LISTEN TO POLISH EXPLANATION OF THEIR PLANS FOR CAC, BUT IS NOT COMMITTED TO THE ASSIGNMENT THERE OF ANY SCIENTISTS WORKING IN FIELDS THAT IN US JUDGMENT ARE INSUFFICIENTLY RELATED TO PURE ASTRONOMY. END COMMENT.
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5. FYI: KUJAWSKI SAID THAT, IF DR. ATKINSON COMES, PAN WOULD ACT AS HIS PRIMARY HOST, BUT THE SCIENCE MINISTRY WOULD ASK THAT HE RESERVE AT LEAST ONE DAY AS THE MINISTRY'S GUEST. HE NOTED THAT MINISTER KALISKI HAD ALSO SENT A LETTER INVITING DR. PRESS TO VISIT POLAND WHENEVER POSSIBLE, BUT ON THE OCCASION OF THAT VISIT, DR. PRESS WOULD BE THE GUEST EXCLUSIVELY OF THE MINISTRY.
BROWN

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